

PORTABLE FIREWIRE HARD DRIVES COMPARED

Company	Product	Rating	Contact	Price ^A	Price per GB	Drive Speed (rpm)	Con-nectors (No.)	Other Capacities	Pros	Cons	Comments	LAB TEST Copy 1GB to Drive	LAB TEST Duplicate 1GB on Drive	LAB TEST Low Memory PhotoShop CS Suite
CMS Products	FireWire ABS Plus for Mac, 100GB	4	www.cms products .com	\$319	\$3.19	4,200	FireWire 400 (1)	20GB, \$219; 40GB, \$199; 60GB, \$229; 80GB, \$269	Can boot OS X using FireWire; includes BounceBack Professional 5 backup software ^B ; FireWire bus-powered.	No USB 2.0; no FireWire 800 port.	The only portable drive we've reviewed designed specifically for backups, this little red drive comes with CMS's own backup software but has only a FireWire 400 port.	0:54	1:54	3:01
G-Technology	G-Drive mini FW (FW 800), 60GB	4	www.g-tech nology.com	\$299	\$4.98	7,200	FireWire 800 (2)	not applicable at 7,200 rpm	Fast; can boot OS X using FireWire; FireWire bus-powered.	No USB 2.0; no FireWire 400 port; high cost per gigabyte.	This fast drive complements the design of a Power Mac G5 and is a great performer, but it is a bit expensive.	0:49	1:23	2:17
Kanguru	2.5-inch Combo Quicksilver FireWire/USB 2.0, 100GB	4	www.kan guru.com	\$300	\$3.00	4,200	FireWire 400 (1), USB 2.0 (1)	40GB, \$130; 60GB,\$160; 80GB, \$190	Can boot OS X using FireWire; FireWire bus-powered.	No FireWire 800 port.	The shiny black Combo Quicksilver features a glowing blue kangaroo that flashes when the drive is active, but it was a little slow in our speed tests.	0:56	1:56	3:02

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Kano Technologies	SureFire 800, 100GB	4	www.kano technologies.com	\$395	\$3.95	4,200	FireWire 400 (1), FireWire 800 (1), USB 2.0 (1)	20GB, \$199; 40GB, \$245; 60GB, \$285; 80GB, \$340	Can boot OS X using FireWire; triple interface.	Slow FireWire 800 speeds.	This moderately priced, bus-powered drive isn't the fastest here, but it features a triple interface and lots of storage capacity.	0:56	1:54	2:33
LaCie	Mobile Hard Drive, Design by F.A. Porsche 7,200 rpm USB and FireWire, 60GB *	4	www.lacie .com	\$240	\$4.00	7,200	FireWire 400 (1), USB 2.0 (1)	not applicable at 7,200 rpm	Fast; can boot OS X using FireWire; FireWire bus-powered.	No FireWire 800 port.	The Mobile Hard Drive is our top pick for portable hard drives. Even tested with FireWire 400, it beat out many of the FireWire 800 drives in this review.	0:45	1:17	2:12
Other World Computing	Mercury Express 2.5-inch FireWire+ USB 2.0/1.1 4,200 rpm 8MB, 60GB	4	www.mac sales.com	\$130	\$2.17	4,200	FireWire 400 (1), USB 2.0 (1)	40GB, \$110; 80GB, \$160	Can boot OS X using FireWire; FireWire bus-powered.	No FireWire 800 port.	This moderately speedy drive is an affordable way to take your data with you.	0:52	1:49	3:10

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Other World Computing	Mercury On-the-Go 5,400 rpm 8MB, 100GB	4	www.mac sales.com	\$250	\$2.50	5,400	FireWire 400 (2), USB 2.0 (1)	40GB, \$140; 80GB, \$200; 120GB, \$330	Fast; can boot OS X using FireWire; inexpensive; FireWire bus-powered; includes carrying case.	No FireWire 800 port.	This drive forsakes speed (it runs at 5,400 rpm) in favor of a low price per gigabyte and lots of storage capacity for such a physically small drive.	0:56	1:50	2:23
Other World Computing	Mercury On-the-Go 7,200 rpm 8MB, 60GB	4	www.mac sales.com	\$250	\$4.17	7,200	FireWire 400 (2), USB 2.0 (1)	80GB, \$300; 100GB, \$360	Fast; can boot OS X using FireWire; FireWire bus-powered; includes Retrospect Express and other utilities; includes carrying case.	No FireWire 800 port; high cost per gigabyte.	This fast little drive has good connection options and an eye-catching, clear case design. It also comes loaded with lots of useful utilities.	0:51	1:23	2:20

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SmartDisk	FireLite FireWire 1394b Hard Drive, 80GB	4	www.smartdisk.com	\$250	\$3.13	5,400	FireWire 800 (2)	40GB, \$150	Can boot OS X using FireWire; FireWire bus-powered; FireWire 800 connectors; includes FireWire 800-to-400 cable.	No USB 2.0; no FireWire 400 port.	Few palm-size portable drives offer FireWire 800, but the small FireLite, in its distinctive case, does, and it pays off. This moderately priced drive also had the second fastest read speeds in our tests.	0:47	1:35	2:41
US Modular	Dragon Drive 2.5-inch, 20GB	3	www.usmodular.com	\$99	\$4.95	4,200	FireWire 400 (1), USB 2.0 (1)	40GB, \$149; 60GB, \$169; 80GB, \$199; 100GB, \$279	Can boot OS X using FireWire; FireWire bus-powered.	Modest capacity, though other capacities are available; slow; no FireWire 800 port; high cost per gigabyte.	The Dragon drive can do everything that these other portable FireWire drives can do—it just does it slower, and at a very high cost per gigabyte.	1:12	2:30	2:55

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WiebeTech	ComboGB, 60GB	4	www.wiebe tech.com	\$250	\$4.17	5,400	FireWire 400 (1), FireWire 800 (1), USB 2.0 (1)	80GB, \$300; 100GB, \$370; 120GB, \$500	Fast; can boot OS X using FireWire; FireWire bus-powered; compact; triple interface.	High cost per gigabyte.	At a relatively high cost per gigabyte, the ComboGB offers a wide range of connection options and fast performance.	0:50	1:43	2:39
* = Top Product. ^A All prices shown are the manufacturers' suggested retail prices. ^B Reviews, January 2005 (macworld.com/0816).												<Better	<Better	<Better
How We Tested All speeds are in minutes:seconds. We ran all tests with the FireWire drives connected to a dual-2.5GHz Power Mac G5 with Mac OS X 10.3.7 installed and 512MB of RAM. All drives were tested using FireWire 800, unless it was unavailable; in those cases, we used FireWire 400. We copied a folder containing 1GB of data from our Mac's hard drive to the external hard drive to test the drive's read speed. We then duplicated that file on the external drive to test both read and write speeds. We also used the drive as a scratch disk when running our low-memory Adobe Photoshop CS Suite test. This test is a set of four tasks performed on a 150MB file, with Photoshop's memory set to 50 percent.— Macworld Lab Testing by James Galbraith and Jerry Jung												BEST RESULTS IN BOLD .		